

Informant:	LMP-S1	Spanish
Date:	06-03-01	Mini DV
Interviewers:	C. Hernandez, M. Jones, P. Polk	
Transcriber:	Josué Domínguez	

[Background noise and activity...]

CH: You wanted a copy of a video, which one? We've taken many, which one?

S1: No, I want a copy of when you tape me in my home. Because they will do it very well and the person who did it for me did it bad, it was all shaky. And I don't know if you have to do it when it's not hot because it looks all shaky when it is.

CH: He wants you guys to do it because he says you guys do it more professionally, he paid someone to do it and it was all shaky and blurry...

Polk: Oh, at his house?

CH: Yes.

S1: My house is very nice and I wanted to record it but the person who did it, did it in a hurry and it's all shaky. And these guys are professionals in taping.

CH: So when we video his house he would like a copy. OK, because I wasn't sure what video you wanted.

Jones: Go ahead and start with those ailments you added, and why don't you tell me when you begin a new ailment, which one your asking about, and then we get through those and we go to your other notes about the eclipsed moon, etc.

CH: I was going to go on to Anginas (anginas)....For anginas (anginas)?

S1: Gargle with lime (limon) and honey (miel).

CH: How many times a day?

S1: Around three times a day.

CH: Until it goes away?

S1: Until the inflammation goes away and gargling with salt (sal) too. But grain salt, not the one they sell here.

CH: How do you know if you are suffering from Angina (angina)?

S1: Because it hurts here, you can't swallow, this here gets inflamed but here they remove them, but in my country I've never heard of them being removed.

CH: Dog bites or rabies (rabia)?

S1: I don't know about that! I know of it but you don't find that treatment here.

CH: What do you do for it in Guatemala?

S1: There is a seed that they give the person but I'm not too familiar with it.

CH: And for bloody nose?

S1: Have someone tilt your head back and pour cold water here and it stops immediately, or a piece of ice, or a rag with ice in it, it goes away fast, it stops. I have this cure for when someone gets cut, if they get cut...oh in Guatemala someone just died, there are people that don't know...you know the issue with 'varicose' (varicosis) comes out because they are oblivious and this lady, a cousin of mine, they had lunched at home and it was raining hard so they had to bring in the pigs and to graze the cow, at around 5pm they began to make their food in the stove, she later went off to feed the cow at around 6 and my cousin said, 'I'm going to bring in my pig' and on the way the other one told her not to go out, that she should cure her cut first, a small one, but her veins were very purple. And they told her to cure her cut and she would not listen. So...they wouldn't take her to the doctor's because of the money and so when the man left the...what is that noise? What's that noise Elmer?...anyway...are they sawing something? Oh. Well when he returned the woman was dead, because she took off some layer, she probably washed too hard, and it was like a faucet, like hose with strong pressure and he let go the leg and began to run to the mother-in-law and other people and no one could help them and so when she got home she fell and died, right away, and my brother-in-law went to see and said that there was a lot of blood, she was sucked completely and they say that they tried to move her but she was unconscious and they couldn't do anything...at the hospital all they could do was tend to her. They say that she was already dead and the blood came spewing out and so...the next morning she was in the coffin and they say blood was everywhere, from the small cut on the foot, they say it was like a hose. And all this all because people were not paying attention, if someone would have just ran with some coffee and some sugar it would have stopped or to burn a newspaper and break it down and put it on the person, but very quickly. Sometimes newspapers leave you a stain, but it's better to have that than dying. So, there was no one to do that for her, the coffee would really help. Here, this one person hurt themselves the other day and they were spewing blood all over and so I ran and put sugar on him and it stopped right away. Sugar and coffee, that is really good for that.

CH: To stop the bleeding?

S1: Yes.

CH: We just talked about....

S1: They say that when they went to see her after she died, you could not stand the smell and that her veins looked like this, they say it looked like lassos, on her feet. They went to put an injection on her because it was unbearable and my brother-in-law told me that where they put the injection it would get worse...and it's dangerous for women that have those veins...and you see that a lot here because they don't take care of themselves, they walk with high shoes and they shouldn't and they should have relations with their

husband after 40 days, they can't shower with cold water, here I think they shower with ice water!

CH: Ice water?

S1: When they have a baby I've been told, they put them in cold water. Over there no, she has to stay in bed for a half day. They shower but not like that, they do it with herbs. So, that's how you get 'varicose' (varises) or for straining with something when they have recently given birth.

CH: And did you want to ask about frostbite?

J: Sure, *INAUDIBLE* -- from frost bit the red streaks up the leg.

CH: When a person has been in the snow, in the cold the skin gets kind of red, so they have been in the cold too long and their skin gets red, and there is a word '???' (savanon), they say that is what it is called but I'm not sure.

S1: When what?

CH: When there is a lot of cold, maybe in the snow.

S1: The blood becomes paralyzed! But of that I don't know. Blood paralyzing, I know that it becomes stagnant.

CH: He says he doesn't know anything about that.

P: Are there illnesses that you get from being to cold?

CH: Are there illnesses that you can get due to the cold? If you are very cold you can get sick?

S1: Yes, you die. In Guatemala, around Christmas is the cold and there are many people that are poor and don't have blankets and they die of the cold, they shrink some and they die, something reaches their heart and they die, because of the cold. But yeah they freeze from the inside and they die, it like gets within the blood and they die.

CH: He says, people don't have...

S1: From that they don't come back, when they freeze it's really hard to have them survive because they say that the cold is like fire and it burns.

CH: They say that the cold is kind of like fire and it burns and...

P: There is nothing you can do?

CH: Yeah, if you get really cold there is nothing to thaw you out because it's like fire...

P: In January?

CH: Yeah

S1: In December and January the air in Guatemala is unbearable, you see in Guatemala its not like here, the wind there will chap and crack your face and skin...because it's so cold.

CH: You get frost bite...not frost bite, like...

S1: It feels like they throw ice on your face, your cheeks, hands all crack open.

P: How do you prevent that?

CH: How do you prevent that?

S1: The poor people over there they put on 'candle made of fat ' (candela de cebo) and that heals them up. Candle made from the fat of a cow.

CH: Candle wax. Of lard.

S1: Of cows' fat.

CH: Should I do 'humors' (humores)?

J: Sure.

CH: Are there humors; for instance, are there pregnant women who have such strong humors that they cannot clean someone's wounds or can't do certain things because the humors are so strong that *INAUDIBLE* . . .

S1: It's because when a woman is pregnant her blood is like agitated, she can't...if you are pregnant and he wants you to inject him, you can't because it will become a scar...that's something from their body. There are some women that become very mean; they treat the man bad and want nothing to do with anybody.

CH: That happens to all women?

S1: Not to all of them, there are some that just sleep a lot...

CH: All women?

S1: No, but too many.

CH: Have you heard of 'negative energy' (pujo)?

S1: Yes, in children?

CH: Yes. What causes it?

S1: It's due to, let's say the mother has a fight with the husband and they struggle and yell and all of that and so when the mother gets mad it runs through the veins and the veins pick up the milk and the child ingests it when breast feeding and that gives them a stomachache and they can't go to the bathroom.

CH: Oh and how do you cure it?

S1: With a leaf of 'Lemon Verbena'(cedron) and 'aniseed' (aniz) -- a big one.

CH: How much of each?

S1: They sell little bags in the markets over there on trees...lets say the bag is like this, you take some, enough for 2 cups about 2 ounces of each one.

CH: Do you make it like a tea or how?

S1: You boil them together and you put in a little honey because you don't give babies sugar, you give them honey and if the baby is really small you take a clean rag and you have him suck on it, if he's a bit big you give him about ½ of those bottles for babies.

CH: How many times in a day?

S1: About 3 times a day.

CH: For how long?

S1: Because babies when they are small they get a lot of colic, because of anger, so the mother was angry a lot when the baby was in the womb.

CH: Colic and 'negative energy' (pujo) are the same or no?

S1: They're almost the same...the colic you alleviate with 'rose buds' (rosa de castilla).

CH: Do you make a tea?

S1: Yes.

CH: Are there other occasions where the 'humors' (humores) or the 'musk' (pudor) of the person have bad effects on others?

S1: What do you mean bad effect?

CH: Well I've heard that if a man comes from the street and he is very sweaty or if he has had sexual relations with his wife and he goes out of the room and there are kids there, the kids could become sick.

S1: Oh, yes they do the 'eye' (ojo)...yes one eye gets small and it gets all full of eye buggers like when you get hit with a rock and it gets all ugly...but you have to cure it

quick because from one of those eyes you could die fast, the heart or the whatever, I don't know but they die fast. But you can cure that with an egg.

CH: How?

S1: You pass it over them in the form of a cross and if you don't then the man should kiss him, carry him...

CH: To cure the child?

S1: Yes...also when a child has 'negative energy' (pujo)...well, have you seen the rock utensil used as a pestle in a mortar and pestle?

CH: Yes, it grinds things up.

S1:...where they grind up dough, tomatoes and all that...you pass it over like this while reciting "O' Father" like massaging with the rock.

CH: For the 'negative energy' (pujo)?

S1: Yes.

CH: How can you prevent 'eye' (ojo) or 'negative energy' (pujo)?

S1: The belief of us Central Americans, for 'eye' (ojo) is to put on them a small cross or a little bracelet with the eye of a deer but mostly you should not have so much pride around your children, if someone wants to cuddle him let them, but there are some mothers and fathers that don't want anyone touching their child.

CH: So, one should not be too prideful with their kids?

S1: Yes, to the people that are prideful are the ones that this happens to. There are some people that just seeing the little bulge, you kind of wrapped that they give you the 'eye' (ojo), at least...

CH: On purpose or no?

S1: Not on purpose; their sight is just really hot. It's even worse if a woman is pregnant by that person, or if the person is all sweaty or really tired and because he has looked at you with his very hot blood the baby gets sick.

CH: But that cures with the person kissing the child...

S1: There are some that put saliva like this on the hands and stuff...

CH: Or they pass the egg?

S1: Yes.

CH: I've heard also that the dead also have 'musk' (pudor) or 'humors' (humores) that are poisonous that could also cause ailments in children or people, there is no specific ailment -- I've just heard them say this...

S1: Well, let's say that a person were to die right now and you were pregnant -- you can't go, the child could die, the child could die or you get sick...if you're pregnant over there they believe you can't go to the cemetery.

CH: And if the person goes because they don't know?

S1: Something could happen to them or abort...

CH: There is no way of preventing it?

S1: No, just don't go look, don't look at the dead person.

CH: Why?

S1: That's how it is over there. Or sometimes the child is born and dies, or it's born dead or dies inside.

CH: OK, have you ever-heard talk about (peche)?

S1: Huh?

CH: If you have a child and they are jealous of the baby...

S1: (Chipe)! Not peche. Peche is a woman's chest!

CH: No, there are some people that say (peche).

S1: That's when you have a baby and since you give it a lot of attention the other gets all crying, they can cry a lot and even die.

CH: And is that from jealousy?

S1: Yes. You have to love them like you always have, when you have a baby you have to keep them all happy otherwise they get sick.

CH: You only have to take care of...

S1: You know, give him attention, play with him, all that...because when a baby is born the rest get a little like crying, fighting, noisy.

CH: How do you get rid of that?

S1: Over there they do this thing, that when they're like this they pretend to go through them in the trash...(laughter) You grab them like you really mean it and it takes it away or if not you have to shower with them and have the water from here fall on to them,

that's what they do over there, but when the children are very noisy and crying a lot, they take a cigar and put it in a glass so it ferments and when they are crying...a lot...the cigar gets moist in the glass and the cigar lets off some thing into the water and when they begin to cry you give them a spoonful and they vomit and they vomit green.

CH: And they stop doing that?

S1: Yes.

CH: And you only do this once?

S1: Yes. Only once.

P: If the child is jealous...

CH: Sibling jealousy or if the baby starts having tantrums, that type of thing....A little time ago you said that one could burst their 'bile duct' (yell), what is that?

S1: The 'bile duct' (yell) is stuck to the liver, our liver is like an animals, I've never opened up any dead body but I think it's the same because the liver is here and the 'vessel' (vaso) is over there and in between the 'vessel' (vaso) and the liver...the kidneys are behind, in between that there is a small ball like this and it's green and that one, if it were to burst, the person would die because it's poison, because...if you're on a diet and you eat around 7am then at seven in the morning that drop will be released which is what cooks the food in your stomach, the one that digests everything and if you...if there is no cushion like the food would be in your stomach then it will fall on the flesh and it creates a cut and you get cancer and gastritis with blood, where you vomit and defecate blood. (note: sounds like he's talking about the bile duct.)

CH: That's the 'bile duct' (yell)?

S1: Yes, for example I haven't eaten anything right now and if the drop is released then I get stomachaches, the wanting to vomit and all that bad stuff.

CH: You get sick?

S1: Yes, but the 'bile duct' (yell) is what...the drop that dissolves the food...if you are skinning a cow or a pig or a chicken and you're not careful, and you cut it open you just fowled up the whole thing, because it becomes bitter/sour.

CH: You can't eat it?

S1: It becomes bitter/sour, it releases a liquid, green and immediately it bursts, you have to grab it from the vein, really tight, and then cut it.

CH: And when children...when we were talking about 'humors' (humores) and 'negative energy' (pujo) you said that if they don't take care of themselves their 'bile duct' (yell) could burst...

S1: Because of the 'eye' (ojo). Yeah, there are some mothers that are very lazy and don't want to do anything, when they come to realize the child is dead because that bursts inside of them, I don't know what the 'eye' (ojo) has to do with the 'bile duct' (yell).

CH: So there is nothing you can do to keep it from bursting?

S1: If you realize that the child has the 'eye' (ojo)...because when kids have it they go backwards, like this, they get all bent/twisted and they cry so much they get purple.

CH: So, one has to...

S1: You take some 'rue' (ruda) or table pepper (pimienta) or if there is a lady that is pregnant with her first child, where she has not aborted or anything, you ask her to rock your child, but she has to be pregnant with first child.

CH: What is rock (arollo)?

S1: To do like this...how do you say it here?

CH: To carry?...Have you heard of (aquirisia)?

S1: (Quirisia) is a lazy person! (Quirisia) comes to you from sadness, you don't want change clothes, it's like a pressure, like someone died and you've been crying and you don't wash, lazy, not even with the want to walk.

CH: To both men and women?

S1: Everyone!

CH: And how do you cure it?

S1: Men get that when women are pregnant. They get that, sometimes even when the child is born, and lazy and dirty without wanting to shower.

CH: And women?

S1: There are women that are lazy and they don't get cured but you have to do a very good 'cleaning' (limpia) or you have to surprise them and throw water on them.

CH: It has nothing to do with giving them a happy color or anything?

S1: No.

CH: Just water?

S1: Yeah.

CH: I asked him about all those other ones, let me ask him about those stones...Are there any rocks of deer rocks (piedra de venado), cow rocks (piedra de vaca), that you could use to cure some ailments?

S1: No.

CH: But you have heard of these rocks -- they are like calcium rocks that both cows and deer have.

S1: I don't know anything about deer, but I do know that cows have inside of them a small golden cow...

CH: That!

S1: But that is just luck. Because my aunt had around 15 cows, you have to be rich, over there to have 15 cows, and one of them died, and in the liver or the heart they found a small golden cow...it's luck and you have to keep it and your flock will grow.

P: Do you have one?

S1: No, I don't have cows.

CH: And so that is only for luck and not healing?

S1: I don't know anything about that.

CH: Have you heard of deer rocks (piedras de venado)?

S1: No, they call it rocks or eyes of deer?

CH: Rocks

S1: No

CH: My grandmother told me that hunters have to look for a deer and they find that rock, then they keep it for good luck so that they can have good hunt with deers.

S1: Maybe but to hunt deer is very hard because the deer in the hoof has a 'fly' that feels you coming from far away...it's eating here and if it feels you coming then that will prick him and it runs away. You see it but you can't catch it -- that animal is like enchanted, like a bad spirit...

CH: Deer?

S1: Deer and coyotes.

CH: What do coyotes have that make them enchanted? Do they have a fly in their foot?

S1: I don't know what they have -- they say that the coyote prayer, the coyote fang will serve for good luck. They say it's good to escape the police, so that the police don't see you. I don't know.

CH: They also talk about the deer's fang.

S1: I don't know about that, I only know of the deer's hoof to hang on the door. Of medicine I don't know.

CH: Why do you hang it?

S1: For good luck...what I do know is of those animals, what do you call them, 'heron' (garzas)...

CH: Red? I thought they were white...

S1: No, they have some at the zoo -- they have them in Brazil...well they'll cut them from here down and you put it behind your seat and the police won't catch you.

CH: You take the wings?

S1: Flamingos!

CH: Oh...

S1: The legs.

CH: The legs, they are for luck?

S1: The hands of raccoons too, and also the hands of an alligator.

CH: It's for luck?

S1: That's what they say.

P: Why do you have the masks here?

S1: I have them because they are spirits and these masks have danced in many places and I like them.

CH: You've danced with them on?

S1: Not here, in Guatemala.

P: INAUDIBLE QUESTION

S1: Yes, each one has its spirit.

CH: He says everything has its own spirit.

P: Special spirits?

S1: Spirits that are there from before?

CH: Do they have a name?

S1: No, just spirits.

CH: And when you dance with the masks on, do the spirits posses you?

S1: No, you just dance it.

P: Is there question for the spirit? Is there a job? Paper?

S1: No

P: Doesn't mean anything like the mask over there...

CH: Because there are some that have paper like that little Indian over there....

S1: Oh, no that's nothing.

CH: Do you know how to cure epilepsy? When someone suffers from attacks and they swallow their tongue.

S1: No. That's a bad problem here. That also comes from the doctors giving people pills and the pills are too heavy, it burns something around here...they say it comes from the pig, but I don't know anything about that...they say it's worms in the pig.

CH: Have you heard of (paletilla)?

S1: No.

CH: When organs, from the inside, get different colors...no you haven't heard of that where all the insides become all mixed?

S1: I know that they call this, the (paletas).

CH: That in the back?

S1: Yes, but I don't know anything about that.

CH: OK...so I've asked all these, so should we just go on to the other questions?

J: Sure, the other questions.

CH: In reference to the moon...have you heard if the moon affects the way in which plants will grow? Are there some plants that need to be grown during a full moon or a new moon?

S1: What I do know is that the moon is important because if today you planted corn and the moon is young then it will not flower well.

CH: It won't grow?

S1: Yes, but it won't give you a lot of corn. If you cut it with a young moon, then the corn will spoil quickly, at about a month. And if you cut it in the ripe moon then, the corn will *INAUDIBLE* (flourish?) or it will become worm ridden...

CH: If you cut it in a ripe moon, so you have to cut it when the moon is ripe

S1: You just have to cut it when the moon is ripe.

CH: And when do you have to plant it so that it will be good?

S1: You have to wait until the moon is growing.

CH: So that it will grow plenty?

S1: So that you get a good farms worth.

CH: Are there any animals that should not be castrated or....

S1: Oh, yeah because the moon can't be young; if you castrate a pig, horse or bull...it will die.

CH: So the moon has to be full?

S1: Full!

CH: And are there people that are affected by the moon? Can the moon posses them?

S1: No, what happens is that they say that the moon 'hit' you -- to explain when you're in a good or bad mood...but I don't know anything about that.

CH: Are there any sicknesses that get worse during different moon cycles?

S1: Yes, people die when the moon is young, and many are born when the moon is young and also when the moon is gone many are born. That has to do with the children. If you were pregnant and the moon was young and you were ready to give birth, the child would be born.

CH: But there are some ailments where, for example, if someone has a hernia -- in Columbia they say that when the moon is full that is when...

S1: It gets inflamed.

CH: Yes.

S1: That also affects, if the moon is young and waning (menguante) -- whatever they call that other stage -- it hurts your cuts or whatever bruises you might have.

CH: But they don't get worse -- they just hurt?

S1: Sometimes they become inflamed.

P: Are there any cures for this?

S1: No.

CH: Is there any amulet one could wear?

S1: No.

CH: So when the moon comes it comes?

S1: Yes.

CH: ...nothing you could say...in regards to 'fright' (susto), does it affect adults as well or just children?

S1: Also adults...if someone were to come in and point a gun it would scare you, or if you see someone kill him in front of you it will cut your blood flow.

CH: And that can be cured or no?

S1: Yes, but it has to be quick or you could die, because fright will make you sad, and depressed and you no longer eat and you cry a lot and you don't know why. You don't want to see anyone, you are afraid of everything; you cure it by praying and pouring holy water.

CH: What type of prayer?

S1: Well, let's say you saw a snake and it scared you -- what they do is they slap the person in the butt three times and they pull on the ears, "don't get scared! And go back home" (laughter). If you're walking in front of your child and he gets jumpy over something, just slap him up. So that they don't get scared.

CH: But if a person gets a big fright, where you said their blood gets cut, is there something you can give them to return to normal?

S1: Yes, sometimes they take him to church, to hear the word and have someone pour on them holy water, so, you put some holy water on them.

CH: You don't give them herbs or anything?

S1: No, I hurt my eye today with a small rock and look at it...

CH: It's red...can cure that?

S1: It will go away.

CH: There is nothing you put on it for the pain?

S1: No, because it has hit the film there.

CH: I also wanted to ask about the (descuajamiento), who are affected by it, men or women?

S1: What is (descuajamiento) for you?

CH: When the stomach falls (estomago caido), fallen stomach...

S1: It can fall for both...for men it's different -- they get an inflammation in the testicles, and to the women, their womb comes out.

CH: And kids are not affected by any of this are they?

S1: Well they say it falls...if you have a child of about one month...there are some people that carry the child or they put him here like this, or they jump with him and so this here will submerge/fall...and you have to stick your finger in them like this, slowly and they begin to cough like they are stopped up in the opening...

CH: How do you cure that?

S1: It has to be a person that knows about that and you open the kid's mouth and you massage them with olive oil (aceite de olivo). But that...I don't remember the name...there is another name that stops up everything in the child and they die...if this falls on the child and you don't fix it then they die. Their stool comes out green and they can't breast feed; they choke on it.

CH: And how many times do you have to rub them?

S1: Around three times.

CH: A day? A week? Or what?

S1: Once a day, in the morning or the afternoon.

CH: Do you have any idea what plants could be categorized as hot and which ones cold, for example, the 'rue' (ruda), 'mallow'(malba), or 'mugwort'(alta misa).

S1: Mallow (Malba) is not hot -- its fresh/cool, it is good to clean people. Over in Guatemala, in hospitals or pharmacies they sell jars with a hose and you stick that in and you put that liquid in and in a moment's time it will take out what is wrong with you (note: he sounds like he's talking about an enema).

CH: How much of the liquid? A lot?

S1: It has to be a handful of mallow (malba) but sometimes it contains other things. Sometimes it contains 'English Salt' (sal Inglesa) and bicarbonate and they put it to boil and then they strain it and then they put that on.

CH: To put on the person?

S1: Yes.

CH: But they don't drink it?

S1: It's to wash the intestine (note: sounds like a colonic)...No. You could drink the mallow (malba) but I've never done it.

CH: And what other plants would you say are fresh/cool?

S1: There are many, like the 'shavegrass' (cola de caballo) -- is very fresh/cool, it's for the kidneys. 'Elder-tree' (sauco) -- it's for the kidneys too, for urine problems and also 'corn silk' (pelo de elote).

CH: And which ones would be hot?

S1: Many of them for example 'marigold' (pericon) is hot, for when you have a stomachache and sometimes it will make a blister in your mouth.

CH: So you give them marigold (pericon) which is something else that is hot...

S1: It's used for when someone has a big headache.

CH: And so when someone has a sickness that was caused by something cool then do you give them something hot?

S1: Yes.

CH: Or some plant that might be hot?

S1: Something hot, a plant that is hot, so that it re-heats the stomach because the stomach will get cold.

CH: And when someone is hot or has something like fever or some sickness that is hot, do you give them cool things?

S1: No. When a person has a fever, some people have it at 120 and I cut it down in one second, but I bathe them in alcohol...

CH: And that's hot?

S1: ...alcohol with lemon -- I decrease the high temperature really quick...no injections or anything. If it's an adult I tell them to put on some shorts and let's go...that's cold! It's as if you took it away with the hand, it no longer affects him. And what they do here is give you some injections so that it can go away, and it does not go away.

CH: So, you don't know other plants?

S1: Rosemary (romero) is hot, 'myrtle' (mirto) -- there are many hot things.

CH: And 'aloe vera' (sabila) is that hot or cold?

S1: Cold, because that one is used for many ailments.

CH: When adults get 'eye' (ojo)...?

S1: No, adults don't really get (ojo), at least, well to some people that have a sickness where they are *INAUDIBLE* or are too mad, they have their blood really hot all the time and if he likes you and you never talk to him then they cause you to get the 'eye' (ojo) and they make you sick. But over there was a man who would that, but he would do it on purpose. It seems he had a bad spirit -- he would stare at you and he would harm you, at a split second you would get fever and vomiting.

CH: And how do you cure it?

S1: You had to go ask him to kiss the girl.

CH: Oh yeah.

S1: Because he is very strong, he died already. They called him Juan Pinto.

CH: Because he was so severe?

S1: Very...he couldn't look at you without seeming like he hated you...it was something that was very hot of the blood and his face was very ugly, he had so many scars on it.

CH: OK, are there some days that are better to cure?

S1: Tuesday and Friday.

CH: Why?

S1: Those are the days that witches use. They are very strong days.

CH: But what is it about those days that causes these days to be so strong? Is there something?

S1: It has come down from time that those are the days that you use -- people have confidence in those days.

CH: Are there days that are least strong?

S1: Monday, Wednesday and Saturday...Sunday is *INAUDIBLE* (good?) for curing.

CH: So it's better to do the cures, Tuesday, Friday and Sunday?

S1: Yes.

CH: Women who are menstruating -- can they cause any type of sickness if anyone is around them?

S1: If they have relations yes; if not, then no.

CH: And if they do, what could happen?

S1: She would rot his thing to the man.

CH: And you can cure that?

S1: Here they call it "Condilomas?" In Guatemala they call it "Changos" because it comes out on the thing of the man...when one has relations one person is pulling on the other and so he pulls on the woman's dirtiness and so it goes inside and the dirtiness with the good begins to rot and from the testicle up -- it begins to hurt for the person and he begins to salivate in yellow, within three days...it begins to drip-drip from the person and it stinks and then he gets these granules and some cuts...

CH: And you can cure that?

S1: Yes, but that is not cured just like that -- only with strong and bitter things but it's best they go to the doctor...

CH: It's best they see a doctor?

S1: Yes because that's going inside and for many people they have had to remove their thing.

CH: And you have never cured that with herbs?

S1: No, that you don't cure, that's inside. I don't get involved with that, but I do know how you do that...that's well...if someone is rotten from there and you are good, when you have relations and you finish and you have a child from that, the child will be born sick.

CH: And you can cure that?

S1: No, he comes out with scars or sick from there...you can't cure it.

CH: So do they die?

S1: They have to live with the sickness.

CH: Human milk, urine, feces of people...all those things from one's own body, are they used to cure?

S1: Mother's milk...

CH: For what?

S1: If you have pain in your ear, you ask a young woman to milk her breast into your ear and it will open your ear and takes the pain away. If someone is bad in the lungs, they give them some milk and they get better...warm, right out of the breast, if a person...the mother's milk even if the mother is poor and has little food the milk is good. Let's say I'm sick, at about his age and I'm really tired and if he takes some of that milk, he'll get better...or die, because that is vitamins. Over there when they are ready to die...if they already have 10 or 15 days being sick with diarrhea and very bad and so they do the last thing they can give him so of that he'll either get better or die.

CH: So if they don't get better they die?

S1: Yes.

CH: And the urine -- do you use it?

S1: Yes, if you cut yourself out in the country side and you don't have anything, what they do is piss on there with the warm urine and that cleanses and the blood will stop.

CH: But it has to be the person's own urine?

S1: Whichever one...but it should be a man's not a woman's.

CH: Is there something wrong with women's urine?

S1: They say it's too hot...women can't pass over the plants because they ruin them...have you heard that if a woman climbs an apple, orange tree it will stop giving fruit?

CH: No, but when she's menstruating or anytime?

S1: Anytime. They get ruined -- they become wormed or they just don't bloom...they die. They can't go over them.

CH: But men can go?

S1: Yeah.

CH: And feces, can you use it?

S1: I don't know.

P: For witchcraft (brujeria)?

S1: For that yes.

CH: I was going to ask you about (hijillo), have you heard of it? or 'wind of the dead' (aire de muerto)?

S1: *INAUDIBLE*, if you have a cold, you can't go to the cemetery because you get these things here and here.

CH: What are they -- welts?

S1: It's a thing, and it's pain, lots of pain...they have to rub you down or else you develop this thing where you can't even walk...or your tonsils come out...and if your tonsils are flared you can't go there because you'll die. I don't know why -- they say that the dead become lost or something...I don't know, they say the dead release something...and here I've seen that they kiss the dead, I went to see a burial and the woman was there...over there they don't allow you to kiss them. When they are dead they close the casket and they don't touch their mouth and here they kiss the mouth...

CH: Over there in El Salvador they close it...

S1: They close it...because for us the respect is that you can't see their face anymore -- women and children should not see them, only older men like him, not just anyone can do it...

CH: Because they get sick?

S1: They get sick and it's not good, not good.

CH: And how do you cure them when they get '???' (hijillo)?

S1: You pass eggs (huevos) or you rub with oils (aceite) or rue (ruda), things like that or light a candle (veladora) for the deceased.

CH: Are there foods that women should not eat, because they are too acidic and it may cause to cease their menstruation?

S1: Menstruation or the baby?

CH: Menstruation.

S1: I know that when women are pregnant they love to eat green mangos with lime and radishes with lots of lime, peanuts with lots of lime, cucumber with lots of spice chili, because they crave it.

CH: And you have to give them that?

S1: Those are habits they get...there are some that will eat dirt. My mother ate dirt.

CH: Does that make them sick?

S1: No, they say that the child asks for it -- well what I know that is bad is that, if you're pregnant and you come here to me and I'm eating something and you don't have any, you will go away with the desire 'your mouth watery' so then the child will come out with his mouth droopy like this.

CH: Always wanting?

S1: They go around with their mouth like this...

CH: Can that be cured?

S1: Sew it! There's no cure, just don't stay craving.

CH: Is there an amulet the woman could wear in the case that would happen?

S1: No. Over there, there was this lady, let me tell you, this woman...turn it off....

TAPE TURNS OFF

P: Why the color red here?

S1: I like it, a lot. Because I like red.

CH: Is there any significance?

S1: Well, red is good luck and if you have some bad intentions then it will cut it...when a child is very cute they dress him in red so that 'eye' (ojo) does not affect him. I'm cute that's why the red (laughter)! I like red.

CH: He says to ward off bad...

S1: It's very attention grabbing and...

P: San Simon's bandana is red.

S1: Yes, red is good...I like red.

CH: Are there fainting spells (desmayos) or attacks that a person gets if they eat a combination of foods that are not good, or if they go swimming after having eaten...

S1: Those are old people beliefs.

CH: But tell me about them, I like to hear of them.

S1: My father told me, we would eat around 8pm or 7pm and he would make me walk 100 steps, until I had done that he would not let me go to sleep. Because the food has not been digested. Over there they say if you just ate and you go into the water, you'll drown.

CH: And it can be any food?

S1: Any food, but I don't believe that.

CH: You eat whenever...

S1: I eat at any time and sleep at any time.

CH: So, I pretty much went through all these questions....

P: Which book?

S1: Oh, this book is of prayers, 150 prayers...

CH: They are prayers that you know?

S1: I like to read them, very good prayers...

CH: Are they catholic?

S1: Yes, and others, but mostly catholic.

PP: And this book is from Guatemala?

S1: No, they make that here -- it has the name of who does it...

CH: Savantes printing, Bell California.

S1: I do have a book of San Simon and that one is mine.

CH: Oh, the little one...

S1: Yeah, I had that one made.

CH: The only tiny little San Simon book is the only one that he had made....Do you guys have any other questions?

MJ: Is that a traditional headdress?

CH: Is this a traditional crown?

S1: It's a crown that I wear when I do works (trabajos) but not all the time.

CH: He says he wears that when he does works (trabajos) but not all the time....San Simon told you how to construct it?

S1: No, I had that made.

P: What type of works with this?

S1: For business, for people to be good.

CH: Does each one have a significance?

S1: Yes, because these are from Macao (Guacamaya) -- they are exotic, and the peacock (pavo real), and these are Arabic (arabes) -- they are a type of small bird but they look like wild cocks...those that when the male wants to hurt the female they cover their entire face with like a sheet as if they were a toreador...I had some in my home but they all left, they leave, they fly away, I only have one...these are just 'turkeys' (guajolotes).

CH: And those wings, feathers are lucky?

S1: Yes...

CH: And do the colors have some significance?

S1: Yes, progress and health.

CH: For you or for the person?

S1: For me.

P: Progress and Health?

S1: Yes.

CH: Anything else?

P: There are many questions, but there is no time.

J: Ask about the necklaces...

CH: Why does San Simon have so many necklaces?

S1: These necklaces here are for healing and these here, people have brought to him.

CH: And what are they for?

S1: The red one is for love, green is for money, gold color is so that there is work, the pink one is for peace at home...

CH: And the purple one?

S1: you put on the person here or on their head...

P: The same as candles?

S1: Yes.

CH: But this you put on the person...

S1: On the hand or the head...let me show you how...like this...if I want you to have a good job and money I pray to San Simon...

CH: You make the prayer while the person is like this?

S1: Yes,

CH: And this is for...

S1: So that there is good luck, so that everything goes well. So then you pray, you put...this is so you have a lot of work and money all the time...show me your hand...and I pray and I cover your body...this is for love, you say the person's name, you pray, what you want...

P: Are there prayers?

S1: San Simon's prayer...with this one is for the man that you want will give you money and that he loves you.

CH: So luck with love and money?

S1: So this is for peace in your home and that you never go without food...this one is protection of kids...

CH: If I'm pregnant or if...

S1: For any child, I pray and I pass this...and this one is if you want the 'tying' (amarro) of a person and so you put it on both hands.

P: This is a traditional ritual?

S1: No, each one knows their own things, I know of mine and others know theirs.

CH: To each his own.

P: *INAUDIBLE*

J: *INAUDIBLE*

S1: What are they saying?

CH: They were talking about of possibly taking some pictures.

S1: I would like someday to videotape the people that I have cured.

CH: But...

S1: But people don't want to, because they don't want to be seen...

CH: We would also like to do that...

S1: But people don't want...that stuff that comes out in TV, that's a lie, they pay.

CH: He says he would like to videotape people that he treats, but they don't seem to be...

S1: ...It's like, for example, I want to sell this place of business, because it's doing bad, and I give you 1000 dollars to you and him and him and you begin to buy and buy, because if they see that there is a lot of people buying then they will want to buy it. It's like when they raffle a car, it's who promises more.

CH: So that is why people are afraid to go on video?

S1: They don't go on video because they...well almost always when they *INAUDIBLE* videos or photos or questions, they almost always are getting too involved in the life of the person and it results in them taking them to court, hospitals, police or suing...you guys with me that have videotaped so much, I trust you guys, and if there ever is a problem I don't care because all I do is good, because that's how they come out with things and that's how they do it and they get you into trouble...I don't touch the TV channel stations that come by, because they come through here a lot and they say things and many more things and finally it's not what you said but they say something else. I do this because it's you guys...any other I don't give an interview, channel 52, 34 or 62 -- I don't give them interviews, because they go and get into what does not concern them...then they go and they do so many things that they never should...hopefully they don't ruin me.

CH: Not us...

S1: But that's why...turn it off.

CH: He says to turn it off.

END